

The History of
Joyce Presbyterian Chapel
Stoneville, North Carolina
1905-1959

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Joyce Presbyterian Chapel

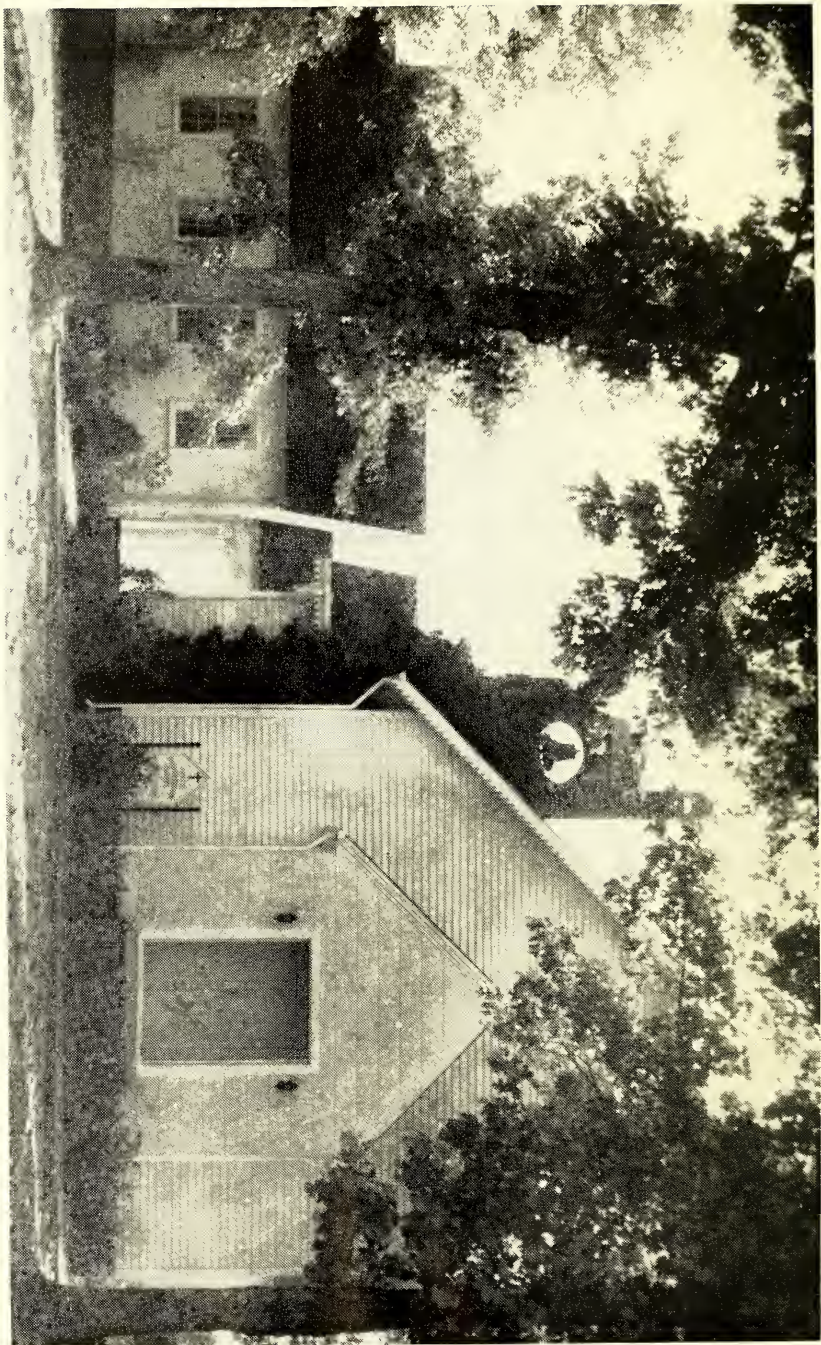
THE HISTORY
OF
Joyce Presbyterian Chapel
1905—1959



By
C. P. Robertson



Stoneville, North Carolina



JOYCE PRESBYTERIAN CHAPEL

*“I Was Glad When They Said Unto Me,
Let Us Go Into the House of the Lord.”*



REV. T. HENRY PATTERSON, D. D.

To
The Pastor and Members
Of The
Joyce Presbyterian Chapel,
This Little Volume
Is Affectionately Dedicated



C. P. ROBERTSON

SUPERINTENDENT SINCE 1928

FOREWORD

The real purpose in preparing this "little history" of Joyce Presbyterian Chapel is that the present and future members may know something of the early history of their church.

As we cherish the memories of those who have gone before us, should not the love and zeal for the church be quickened; a spirit of gratitude to God for this heritage be developed, and that spirit of charity which has always characterized our church, be strengthened and enlarged?

— C. P. Robertson

Stoneville, North Carolina

August 31, 1959

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NAME AND LOCATION

The name Joyce predominates in the community and the Chapel was given the name of "Joyce Presbyterian Chapel" in honor of the Joyce family.

The Chapel is located four miles West of Stoneville, North Carolina. It is in a farming area, where many of the farmers inherited their lands. Some of the plantations have been divided and handed down for several generations.

Since this part of the state is now being industrialized, the rapid expansion offers a tremendous challenge to the Church.

AN OUTPOST*

Joyce Presbyterian Chapel is an outpost of the Stoneville Presbyterian Church, where the statistical records are kept and the communicants are enrolled. However, the pastors of the Madison Church have served the Chapel all through the years, with the exception of the two years that the Reverend Price Henderson Gwynn, of Leaksville, served as supply pastor, and, of course the ten year period the church closed.

In reality the Chapel is an outpost of the Stoneville and Madison churches jointly.

**An outpost of the Southern Presbyterian Church is a home mission work or chapel that has not been organized into a church. The membership is carried in the mother or sponsoring church, and always under the supervision of the session.*

PRESBYTERIANISM IN ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

Many of the first settlers of Rockingham County were of the Presbyterian Faith. The Scotch-Highlanders came up from the Cape Fear country while Northern Presbyterians came down from Pennsylvania and Maryland to settle in Guilford and other counties. The Nottingham Colony, of which old Buffalo Church was the center, was formed in the bounds of the old Nottingham Presbyterian Church at Rising Sun, Md., between 1750 and 1753. In the years that followed many of their descendants settled in Rockingham County. Speedwell Church, founded in 1759, is the oldest church in the county.

A glance through the Sessional records of our older churches reveals that the clergy of pioneer days held services in Speedwell, Leaksville, Madison, Wentworth and Spring Garden Churches.

Presbyterianism has increased in Rockingham County with the population. In 1810 the population was around ten thousand* with one (perhaps two) Presbyterian churches. Today with sixty-five thousand population there are twelve churches in the county.

**The 1810 population figures are from the Lindsey Snead papers.*

THE FOUNDING OF JOYCE PRESBYTERIAN CHAPEL

Back of the founding of Joyce Presbyterian Chapel lies a story of the lengthening shadow of a Child's Catechism.

About seventy-five years ago Hiram Foard,* of Leaks-ville, was superintendent of a small Presbyterian Sunday school that was held in a rural school house (Oak Forest school) near the present El Bethel Presbyterian Church.** It was here in the late Mr. Foard's Sunday school that a tiny little girl, Minnie Carter, memorized the Child's Catechism in one week's time. She then called for the Shorter Catechism, which she memorized within one month. And within less than one year she had learned all the answers to the Westminster Confession of Faith, together with the scriptural references, missing parts of only two questions.

After the little girl grew to womanhood she became the wife of Robert L. Joyce, and they settled in the Joyce community west of Stoneville. She was one of the founders of Joyce Presbyterian Chapel. The widening influence of the Catechism did its work in her life. Her husband, the late Robert L. Joyce, was for many years an elder in the Stoneville Presbyterian Church.

**Hiram Foard was the author of Foard's Questions and Answers.*

***El Bethel Presbyterian Church grew out of the Foard Sunday school.*



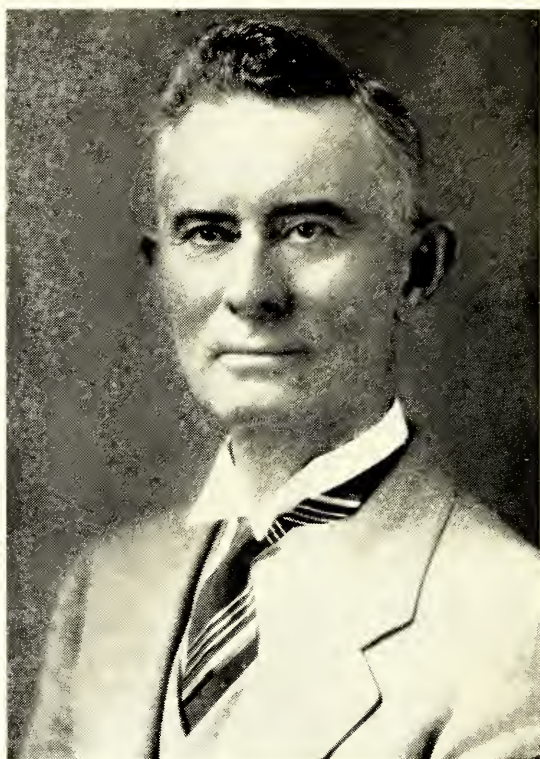
HON. THOMAS L. SMITH

THE MAILMAN CARRIES THE "GOOD NEWS" TO HIS PATRONS

More than fifty years ago Thomas L. Smith was the rural mail carrier from the Stoneville office. Back in those leisurely days the mail was carried in a horse-drawn buggy, and the mailman had the rare privilege of conversing with his patrons along the way. Mr. Smith learned that there was not a church of any denomination within several miles of the Joyce community.

Mr. Smith and Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Joyce, after prayerful consideration, invited the Madison pastor, the Reverend William Marion Sikes, to conduct a service in the Joyce School building, and to announce the opening of a Sunday school for the community. Mr. Sikes held the first worship service on the last Sunday in September, and the Sunday school was opened on the following Sunday; the first Sunday in October, 1905. Mr. Smith, who has now (1959) passed his ninetieth birthday, remembers that there were ninety-one present for the opening of the Sunday school, with several on the outside, probably a custom of that day.

Indeed the Lord had blessed the faithful witness of the early leaders and founders of Joyce Presbyterian Chapel.



REV. WILLIAM MARION SIKES, D. D.

1875—1941

THE FIRST PASTORS

The Reverend William Marion Sikes* was the first pastor and served from 1905 until 1908, when he left the Madison Church, having been called to another field. Mr. Sikes was followed by the Reverend Price Henderson Gwynn, of Leaks-ville, who served as supply pastor for two years.

All through the years (except the period the church was closed) the Chapel had one Sunday afternoon preaching service each month until 1953 when the Reverend James E. Ratchford began holding two services each month. The present pastor, Dr. T. Henry Patterson,* holds two and some times three morning services each month. Dr. Patterson's genuine interest in all phases of the Church's activities has contributed immeasurably to the growth and influence of the Church.

It has been a labor of love on the part of the pastors who have so graciously given of their time to a struggling congregation.

**The Reverend William Marion Sikes, D. D., was for many years professor of theology in Stillman Institute.*

**The Reverend T. Henry Patterson, D. D., was for twelve years the executive secretary of Orange Presbytery. It was through his untiring efforts that Camp New Hope was established.*

THE FIRST MEETINGS

The Reverend S. M. Rankin,* of Greensboro, held the first meeting at the Chapel. Some of the older people of the congregation remember that several persons united with the church during the meeting.

The Reverend Price Henderson Gwynn, of Leaksville, while he was serving as supply pastor, held the second meeting. There were several additions to the church during this meeting.

The Reverend W. P. Robertson, while he was pastor of the Madison church, held either a meeting or a series of worship services at the Chapel, the record is not clear. Some of the older people of the congregation remember that he rode horse-back to the church. He began his pastorate at Madison in 1914, and those were, indeed, horse and buggy days.

As a boy in his teens, Dr. R. Hamlin Stone, a native of Stoneville, attended services at the Chapel with the superintendent, Mr. Smith. He saw the great need for churches in the rural communities, and during the years that followed he was instrumental in organizing a number of rural churches.

**The Reverend S. M. Rankin was one of the founders of Flora MacDonald College and the Glade Valley School.*

HISTORY OF JOYCE PRESBYTERIAN CHAPEL



ORIGINAL CHURCH BUILDING, 1906

THE FIRST BUILDING

The first building, about twenty-four by twenty-eight feet in size, was erected by the people of the community with Mr. Smith's help. It served as a place of worship for many years. But after the new building was erected the little log building was removed. The congregation, made up largely of rural people, did not like the idea of worshipping in a building so much like their tobacco barns. However, it had served its purpose, and the base of the chimney still stands as a reminder of the early days when the congregation worshipped in the little log church.

THE BELL AND THE PEWS

After the days of school consolidation the Joyce School was closed and the bell brought to the Chapel where it still hangs in the tower, a reminder that church and school go hand-in-hand.

The pews, a gift from the Madison Presbyterian Church, are more than one hundred years old. They are usually filled each Sunday.

THE LAND

The Robert L. Joyce family gave the land on which the church stands, and according to the records at the Court House, it is vested in the trustees of the Stoneville Presbyterian Church and the Madison Presbyterian Church, jointly.

THE JOYCE CEMETERY

The land back of the church was also given by the Robert L. Joyce family for a cemetery. Many of the families who worship here have loved ones buried in the Joyce cemetery.

CHURCH CLOSED FOR TEN YEARS

After Mr. Thomas L. Smith* retired as postmaster at Stoneville he and his family moved to Leaksville. He had been the faithful superintendent of the Sunday school for almost ten years.

After Mr. Smith moved away, Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Joyce carried on the work for several years, but with failing health and being without a pastor the doors of the little log church had to remain closed for ten years, or longer.

**The Honorable Thomas L. Smith represented his district in the State Senate from 1926 to 1928.*

HISTORY OF JOYCE PRESBYTERIAN CHAPEL



FIRST UNIT OF NEW BUILDING, 1930

THE WORK REVIVED

During the summer of 1928 the hay, fodder and shucks were removed from the church building and it was ready for services again.

The Reverend Walter C. Cansdale, pastor of the Madison and Stoneville churches, held a meeting and made the announcement that the present superintendent would meet with those who wished to start a Sunday school on the following Sunday. The following Sunday being a rainy day only two little girls braved the weather to meet the new superintendent. However, the Sunday school was soon on its way and meeting regularly every Sunday afternoon.

The pastor came one Sunday afternoon each month to hold a worship service.

A NEW CHURCH BUILDING

A building program is always an inspiration to a congregation and, of course, our church was no exception to the rule. The work on the new church building started in 1929 and was finished the following year. While it was only a plain one room structure, it was and is a substantial building and a great improvement over the little log building that had served as a church for so long.



REV. PRICE HENDERSON GWYNN

1861—1938

UNDER A CRAB-APPLE TREE

The first visit to the Chapel by this writer was with the late Reverend Mr. Gwynn.* It was on a very hot summer day when Mr. Gwynn found it necessary to get a delayed report for the Stoneville Church in the mails. Mr. Robert L. Joyce, an elder in the Church, was the clerk of the Session, and it was deemed advisable to drive out to his home near the Chapel to hold the meeting of the Session. We found Mr. Joyce in an open field near a crab-apple tree. The writer remembers the sessional prayer. Almost anyone can pray in a beautiful church, or in a prayerful atmosphere, but it takes a magnanimous soul to pray under a crab-apple tree.

The fellowship hall was erected as a memorial and a portrait of Mr. Gwynn hangs over the mantel.

**Mr. Gwynn was pastor of Steele Creek, Leaksville and other large churches in North Carolina and Virginia.*

THE FIRST ADDITION TO THE CHURCH BUILDING

By 1945 the congregation had outgrown the one room church edifice. The building was inadequate for the work being done and it became necessary for the congregation to begin to plan for additional space. Plans were drawn for a modernization program with class rooms and a basement for a central heating system.

The building was completely renovated. The people “had a mind to work” and from ten to fifteen persons could be seen almost any day assisting the carpenters and masons or excavating the basement.

THE SECOND ADDITION

Within two or three years from the time the first addition was completed the congregation found that it still did not have sufficient room to carry on a full program of religious training, and another wing was added to include a fellowship hall, kitchen and additional class room space.

HISTORY OF JOYCE PRESBYTERIAN CHAPEL



SNOW SCENE

PIONEER DAYS

During the early days of the Chapel the roads during the winter months were often bad, and some times impassable. The Sunday school would close with the Christmas program (or, at least it did during some winters) and remain closed until spring, which was a custom with many rural Sunday schools. That period is often referred to as "the pioneer days."

BUILT BY THE UNIT SYSTEM

It is interesting to note that the church has never incurred any indebtedness, and that it has been built by the unit system, that is, by adding the space as it was needed. And strange as it may seem, none of the work (except the heating system) was done by contract, and all of it without the benefit of an architect.

HISTORY OF JOYCE PRESBYTERIAN CHAPEL



MOTHERS BRING THEIR BOYS TO SUNDAY SCHOOL

THE CHURCH SCHOOL

From a child thou hast known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation.—II Timothy 3:15

The officers and teachers in the Sunday school have labored faithfully, and in the lives about them to whose Christian development they have so nobly contributed, they have their reward.

The late C. G. Miller, taught in different Sunday schools for a period of sixty-one years. Mr. Miller was the Bible class teacher here for several years, and left a marked contribution to the work he loved so much.

THE WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

She hath wrought a good work upon me. — Matthew 26:10

BY RUBY THRASHER ROBERTSON

The women have had a large part in the continuing work at Joyce Chapel from the very beginning. Mrs. Minnie Carter Joyce was the dedicated leader in the early years of the church. Her little grandson said: "Grandmother just lives for her church." And, indeed, she did. It was her faith that led to the founding of the church, and seemed to have been foremost in her thinking as long as she lived. She carried in her heart the people of her community just as Paul carried his friends.

Miss Kate Dubose, Director of Religious Education for Orange Presbytery, was genuinely interested in the work at the Chapel, and after the new church was erected (in 1929) she turned the little log building into a hut for recreational purposes, and with flower boxes at the windows and other finishing touches she made it most attractive. Miss Dubose conducted the first Daily Vacation Bible School at the Chapel in 1929.

One of the early teachers who will be remembered for a long time to come was Mrs. Carrie Scales of Madison. Mrs. Scales was loved by the people of the community for her devotion and kindly interest in people. She was the teacher of the Bible class for several years.

This sketch would not be complete without including Mrs. Mary Joyce King. Aunt Mate, as she was called, united with the church after she had passed sixty, and from that day until her last illness, about ten years later, she did not miss a service at the church.

Mrs. Elinor Miller Lewis did an effective work with the children of the community. For several years she was the leader for the Daily Vacation Bible Schools.

Mrs. Mary Ratchford, while Mr. Ratchford was pastor, was instrumental in organizing the Women of the Church. And Mrs. Sue Patterson, wife of our pastor, is the able leader at the present time.

HISTORY OF JOYCE PRESBYTERIAN CHAPEL



THE CHOIR, 1955

THE MINISTRY OF MUSIC

It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto Thy Name, O Most High. — Psalms 92:1

Back in 1928 a cottage organ was purchased and the top part containing a mirror was removed. This was the first instrument used. A few years later a second-hand piano was purchased. It is still in use.

Miss Carolyn Joyce has been the faithful pianist for the past several years.

Mrs. Florence Martin Kallam and Mrs. Grace Joyce Evans have been assistant pianists for about twenty years.

Miss Dorothy Fields was the pianist and choir director for five years (1950-1955) while she was a teacher in the Stoneville schools.

THE PASTORS

*Esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. —
I Thessalonians 5:13*

Rev. William M. Sikes.....	1905-1908
Rev. Price H. Gwynn.....	1909-1910
Rev. Walter C. Cansdale.....	1928-1929
Rev. J. R. Potts.....	1930-1931
Rev. Henry Willis.....	1931-1934
Dr. Frank M. Hawley.....	1934-1945
Rev. Murray E. Love.....	1946-1951
Rev. James E. Ratchford.....	1951-1956
Dr. T. Henry Patterson.....	1957-

THE MEMBERSHIP

We are members of His Body — Ephesians 5:30

We are members one of another — Ephesians 4:25

Carter, Mr. Homer

Carter, Mrs. Estelle Joyce (Homer)

Carter, Miss Mary Lucile

Clark, Mr. Raymond

Clark, Mrs. Ruby (Raymond)

Clark, Mr. Raymond Wayne

Evans, Mr. DeWitt W.

Evans, Mrs. Grace Joyce (DeWitt)

Fields, Miss Dorothy Mae

Joyce, Miss Rosa Mae

Joyce, Mr. Samuel Hayes

Joyce, Miss Helen

Joyce, Mrs. Lilliton (Clyde)

Kallam, Mr. Hass B.

Kallam, Mrs. Florence Martin (H. B.)

Kallam, Mrs. Nellie King

Kallam, Mr. Larry Van

Kallam, Mr. Timothy Gwynn

Kallam, Mr. Hilton Boone

Kallam, Mr. Ralph Martin

Kallam, Mrs. Nancy Powell (R. M.)

Kallam, Miss Betty Florence

THE MEMBERSHIP (Continued)

Martin, Mr. Pearly C.
Martin, Mrs. Pearly King (P. C.)
Martin, Mr. Walter
Martin, Mr. T. Moir
Martin, Mrs. Juanita Watts (T. M.)
Manuel, Miss Norma Jean
Manuel, Mr. Norman Franklin
Manuel, Mrs. Delora Joyce (N. F.)

Price, Miss Martha Jane

Wilson, Mr. Horace Bruce
Wilson, Mrs. Pearl (H. B.)

THE COVENANT MEMBERS

Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it. — Proverbs 22:6

Martin, Pamela
Martin, Elizabeth Amanda

Wilson, Sandra Mae
Wilson, Fred Arthur
Wilson, Simmons Larry
Wilson, Glen Lester
Wilson, Brenda Kay



GROUP OF CONGREGATION, MAY 15, 1954

THE FUTURE

The writer, who has been the superintendent of the Sunday school for the past thirty years, feels that the congregation is deeply grateful for the help it has received from Presbytery; from the Synod and from friends who have been most generous through the years, and especially grateful that the Lord has so graciously blessed and enriched the lives of the people of the community.

All that has been done is only a foundation upon which to build in the future.

HISTORY OF JOYCE PRESBYTERIAN CHAPEL



THE BELFRY

THE OLD CHURCH BELL

*The old church bell
Whether heard over hill or dell;
When you have heard it
You fall under its spell.*

*I love its tone, it is
So mellow and so mild,
It tugs at your heart-strings
Just like a child.*

*Yes, the old church bell
With its beauty and its tone,
I'll never forget it
Even away from home.*

While many of God's chosen people remain in the twilight of the unidentified, they are, indeed, the "Salt of the earth and a city that cannot be hid." Their names may not appear prominently in print, but they are written in that eternal book . . . and that is better.

HISTORY OF JOYCE PRESBYTERIAN CHAPEL

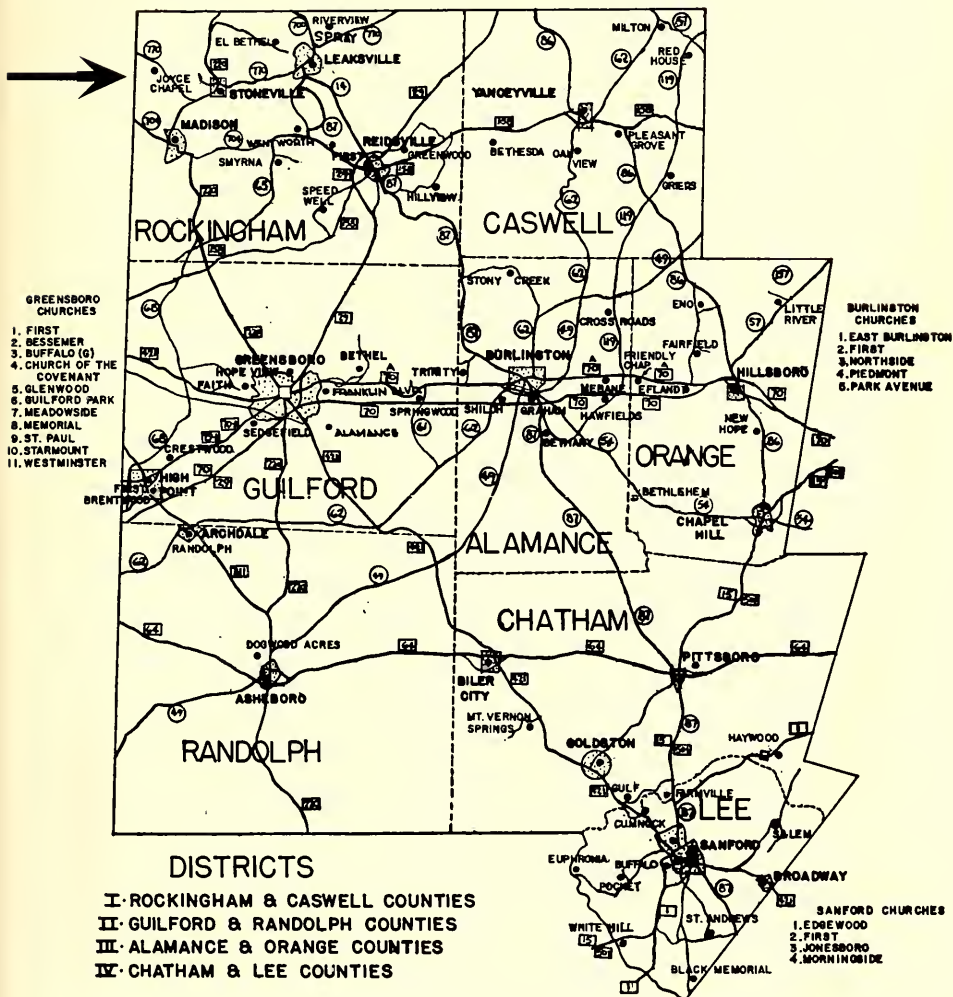


BEFORE ADDITION IS MADE



AFTER ADDITION IS MADE

Map of Orange Presbytery



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Robertson

History of Joyce Presbyterian

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